



The first sod is turned...

Thank you to all our members and supporters who were able to join us to celebrate the official start of construction of the Hepburn Wind project last Friday 8 October.

The turning of the first sod took place on a suitably windy day at the site in Leonards Hill before more than 120 supporters. The Victorian Minister for Environment & Climate Change, Gavin Jennings spoke passionately about the project before officially turning the first sod.

We were privileged to also welcome Catherine King, Federal Member for Ballarat, Adam Bandt, Federal Member for Melbourne, Geoff Howard, State Member for Ballarat East, and Kate Auty, Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability.



Ably hosted by our local Deputy Mayor, Rod May and together with our members and other leaders in the environment movement and industry, the gathering underscored the leading role Hepburn Wind is playing in the renewable energy sector.

With a line of miniature windmills leading guests to the site, our Chair, Simon Holmes à Court spoke of how our project has captured not only the imagination of our local community, but also of communities around Australia.

Hepburn Wind has inspired the establishment of Embark, a new and separate non-profit organisation established to support other communities to achieve sustainable solutions. The Executive Director of Embark, Mary Dougherty, spoke of her passion to support hundreds of other communities to develop their own community energy projects. Visit [Embark's website](#) for more information.



click on any photo to see enlargement and caption on [our Flickr site](#)

The only disappointing aspect of the day was a protest organised by a group with the

misleading name 'Australian Environment Foundation'. The group denies the existence of climate change and supports Landscape Guardian groups to target renewable energy projects, even supplying signs, banners and protesters.

The protesters numbered around 20 and included few locals, and while Hepburn Wind supports the right of peaceful assembly, we believe there is no place in our community for abuse and intimidation - especially in the presence of children.

We maintain that the protesters did not represent the local community's attitude to Hepburn Wind. Despite this, we continue to work hard to positively engage with the few locals who do not support the project, and we are confident that our actions will greatly help to rebut any remaining myths and misinformation.

'Innovator of the Year'

On the evening before the ground-breaking ceremony, Hepburn Wind director Martin May attended the annual conference of the Climate Alliance to receive their 'Innovator of the Year 2010' award "in recognition of exemplary innovation in the area of managing the opportunities and risks of climate change".

The award was made in recognition of Hepburn Wind's community-oriented business model and the role we have played towards achieving the local community's energy sustainability goal.

The Climate Alliance is a not-for-profit organisation that provides independent, business-oriented information to business leaders, to help them inform themselves about the opportunities and risks resulting from climate change.



It was gratifying for Hepburn Wind to be acknowledged in this forum. In accepting the award, Martin reinforced the central role of our model which is designed by the community for the community and will continue to deliver benefits not only to the Hepburn region but to regional Australia by sharing the lessons learnt with other communities.

On the production line...

We're excited to share with you the first photos of our turbines being manufactured by REpower Systems in their factory in Husum, Germany. This is another exciting milestone for our project that we can all be very proud of. The photos below show the nacelle component at an early stage of manufacture.



The third photo proves that it really is ours!

For those who like details:

The nacelle is the structure that sits at the top of the tower and houses the gearbox, generator, and control electronics that regulate the energy and keep the nacelle pointing into the wind. Attached to the front of the nacelle are the three blades (joined at the hub). As the wind blows, the blades rotate slowly at about 14 revolutions per minute (RPM). The gearbox takes the slow rotation and converts it into a speed suitable for generation of electricity. The generated electricity at 690 volts is sent down electrical cables in the tower to a transformer where it is converted to 22 kV before travelling through underground cables to a small substation (which is responsible for managing the wind farm and connecting to Powercor's electricity network).

The nacelle weighs 67.5 tonnes and is a little over 10 metres long - about the size of a small bus. The three blades (which are 40 m long and each weigh 7,001 kg) and the hub together add another 39.5 tonnes. All of this sits on top of a 66 m tower on an underground foundation - more on that as we get closer to the concrete pour!

We will keep all our members and supporters posted as our construction progresses - with photos and updates from the site.

Thank you!

Hepburn Wind has enjoyed pro-bono assistance from a wide range of supporters in industry. It should come as no surprise that many companies in the renewable energy sector have a strong commitment to corporate social responsibility.

Leading engineering consultancy firm [Parsons Brinckerhoff](#) recently performed a detailed analysis which has given us some important insights into the value of the energy produced by our turbines. These insights have been highly valuable in our discussions with energy retailers regarding the sale of our clean electricity.

Hepburn Wind thanks Parsons Brinckerhoff for their assistance.



And finally ...

If you have any feedback or questions the please contact us info@hepburnwind.com.au

Remember [our share offer](#) is still open in Victoria, as well as our local promotion offer to sign up two new local members. If you haven't yet joined us as a member, it is time to get on board. Our members are making it clear that communities care about climate change!

If you are in Daylesford on Saturday 16 October, please drop by our stall at the Swiss Italian Festa held at the Sound Shell in Hepburn Springs from 10.00 am.

If you haven't already checked out our Twitter feed, you'll find Hepburn Wind and related news there first!
See <http://twitter.com/hepburnwind> for more information.

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